to promote economic cooperation between India and Israel, have been identified by an inter-ministerial Joint Study Group.

(d) Does not arise.

Implementation of SAFTA

757. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state what steps have so far been taken by India and other South Asian countries towards implementation of the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) accord, item-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) Agreement is scheduled to come into force from 1 January, 2006. A Committee of Experts (COE), consisting of delegates from all Member States, have been negotiating on all outstanding issues pertaining to SAFTA, namely (1) Rules of Origin, (2) Sensitive List (3) Mechanism for Compensation of Revenue Loss for the Least Developed Contracting States (LDCS) (MCRL) and (4) Technical Assistance to LDCS (Technical Assistance). Matter regarding Technical Assistance has been finalized.

The final meeting of COE is going to be held from 29 Novemebr - 1 December, 2005 at Kathmandu to finalize the remaining outstanding issues.

Setting up of Inter-state Trade Council

758. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI T.T.V.DHINAKARAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up an Inter State Trade Council as announced in the Foreign Trade Policy this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many meetings of this Council have been held so far;

(d) whether any guidelines have been issued to State Government for promotion of trade; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN):(a) Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted the Inter-State Trade Council (ISTC) on 24th June, 2005.

(b) The Composition and terms of reference of the ISTC are given in the Statement . (See below)

(c) The newly formed ISTC has not met, so far.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

Statement

Constitution of the Inter State Trade Council

The Inter State Trade council has been set up on 24th June, 2005. The constitution of the Inter-State Trade Council is as follows:—

1. Chairman of the Council- Commerce & Industry Minister.
2. Chief Minister of the States or State Cabinet Ministers nominated by Chief Ministers.
3. Lt. Governors/ or Administrators of the Union Territories or their nominess.
4. Secretaries to Government of India:
   - (i) Secretary, Department of Commerce
   - (ii) Secretary, Department of Revenue
   - (ii) Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs
   - (iv) Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion
   - (v) Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation
   - (vi) Secretary, Department of Shipping
   - (vii) Secretary, Department of Road Transport and Highways
   - (viii) Secretary, Ministry of Power
   - (ix) Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation
5. Chairman, Railway Board
6. Director General of Foreign trade- Member Secretary
7. Co-opted Members:
   - (i) Chairman& Managing Director, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation.
   - (ii) Managing Director, EXIM Bank.
   - (ii) Dy. Governor,Reserve Bank of India,
   - (iv) Chairman, Agricultural and Processed Food Products, Exports Development Authority (APEDA)
   - (v) Chairman, Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MEPDA)

(vi) President, CII
(vii) President, FICCI
(viii) President, FIEO
(ix) President, ASSOCHAM
(x) President, of Export Promotion Council for EOUs/SEZs.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference of the Inter State trade council are as follows:—

(i) To identity impediments that affect exports adversely.

(ii) To evolve uniform practices across different States in respect of trade facilitation.

(iii) To identify issues relating to State governments in regard to WTO capacity building, infrastructure development and creating an overall supportive Policy and fiscal environment for international trade.

(iv) To create a framework for making States partners in India's export effort.

(v) To commission studies in furtherance of the above objectives.

(vi) Any other related issue.

The Inter-State Trade Council will be a permanent Advisory Body, which will meet at least once every six months.

Items imported under WTO

†759. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the list of items imported during the last three years under WTO agreement alongwith their value thereof;

(b) the extent to which it has adversely affected the economy of the country;

(c) whether Government propose to issue a white paper on the effects arising from WTO agreement; and

(d) if so, by when?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.